

1994

## UA1F WKU Archives Vertical File - Jim Richards

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Photo by Paul Schuhmann

JIM RICHARDS, who was named Western Kentucky's head basketball coach yesterday, stands and shouts instructions during the NCAA finals at WKU - Faculty, 1971

Houston. At his right is then head coach John Oldham, who is flanked by Jim McDaniels. Western's other assistant, Buck Sydnor, is at the left.

# A handful of tradition

## Richards needn't pay to coach Western, after all

By JOHN FLYNN

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

Western Kentucky University dipped into the family circle yesterday and named Jim Richards, 34-year-old native of Adair County, as its third basketball coach of the modern era.

Richards, an assistant to John Oldham the past three years, had been the fore-runner for the job since Oldham stepped aside two weeks ago to become athletic director in place of the retiring Ted Hornback.

However, his confirmation by President Dero Downing at an afternoon press conference came suddenly—perhaps because Western was falling dangerously behind in the recruiting derby.

Richards did not find out until yesterday morning that he was to be the head man. By last night he was busy on the telephone talking to prospects who had delayed their decision on a college until Western named its head coach.

### No signees yet

"We haven't signed a single prospect, so my No. 1 objective has to be getting some players," declared Richards. But despite the urgency of the recruiting situation, he still found time to marvel at his good fortune.

"It has to be the happiest day of my

life," he declared. "Goodness sakes, when I started coaching, my wife, Annette, and I used to say how nice it would be if I could get the head job at Campbells-ville or Greensburg. Now what a thrill it is to be named head coach at Western Kentucky. Annette often has asked me how much I would PAY to be head coach here. And think of the tradition that has been handed down to me."

If Richards took a gee-whiz attitude, well he should have. Ten years ago he would have been a million-to-one shot to follow in the footsteps of Ed Diddle.

### Prepared for dentistry

He was, at best, a mediocre player at Adair County, failing to make the varsity until his senior season. "I was a regular in coach John Burr's system until about the eighth grade," he recalled. "Then all the kids started shooting the jump shot, but I thought it was a passing fad so I stuck with my two-handed shot. Too bad. I suppose that's why I still wear my hair in a flat-top."

At Western Kentucky, Richards played baseball and contented himself with keeping shot charts for Diddle's run-and-gun teams while preparing himself to become a dentist.

But sports ran too thick in his blood to turn away. So at the last moment he

took up coaching and proved that a non-player could teach the game to others. He carved out eight successful seasons at Auburn and Glasgow high schools before moving on to Western in 1968.

"Coaching is my whole life," said Richards. "I hate to admit this, but other than text books in school I've never read a book from cover-to-cover that didn't deal with sports or coaching technique."

### Sydnor may depart

Besides the recruiting, which, incidentally, Richards said he learned to dislike in his three seasons under Oldham, filling out his staff will require early attention.

Buck Sydnor, Oldham's other assistant, indicated yesterday that he would not be back this winter. "I would say that my chances of coaching at Western next season are slim and none," declared the 40-year-old Sydnor.

However, Richards said he had not discussed Sydnor's situation with him. "I don't know what is on Buck's mind," he noted.

But Richards admitted that he must add a recruiter to his staff—a man who can convince players that the air is cleaner, the girls are prettier and the basketball is better in Bowling Green.

"It's a tough job," said Jim. "I know from experience."

## 1968 Prep Coach Of The Year

# Glasgow's Richards To Join Western Cage Staff

Jim Richards, coach of Glasgow high school state basketball champions and Kentucky's 'Coach of the Year,' will join the Western University staff as assistant basketball coach effective Sept. 1.

Dr. Kelly Thompson, president of Western, made the announcement of Richards' appointment Saturday.

Richards replaces Gene Rhodes, who was released last fall to accept the head coaching position with the Louisville Col'ons professional basketball team.

Richards was highly recommended by Western head coach John Oldham for the position. He will move to Bowling Green at the termination of his duties with Glasgow high school and will assist Coach Oldham with recruiting duties during part of the summer months.

At only 31 years of age, Richards has been one of the most successful basketball coaches in Kentucky.

He was selected as Kentucky high school basketball's "Coach of the Year" after his Glasgow High School team won the State Tournament at Louisville earlier this month. He was voted the honor in a poll of more than 200 of his fellow coaches.

He began his coaching career



**NEW NET AIDE** — Western Kentucky University head basketball coach John Oldham (right) greets Jim Richards, coach of Glasgow High School's state champions, upon the announcement that Richards will join the Hilltopper staff as an assistant coach, effective Sept. 1.

in 1959 at Auburn High School. 27-4, 14-15, and 23-11. From where his teams compiled Auburn he went to Glasgow, successive won-lost records of

where the Scotties had records of 15-10, 25-6, 31-2, 19-7, and, for the past season, 32-2.

Overall, his teams have won 186 games and lost only 57, for a winning percentage of .776. At Glasgow, his record has been 122-27 (.819).

Richards' playing career didn't foretell his phenomenal success as a coach. He was a solid reserve player, but never a regular, at Adair County High, where he graduated in 1954.

As a student at Western, he was a baseball player who attracted some professional offers and he kept statistics for Coach E. A. Diddle's basketball team.

After his junior year, he changed his mind about becoming a dentist and set his sights on a coaching career.

He received the B. S. degree in 1959 and the M.A. degree in 1960, both from Western. He had done additional graduate work at Indiana University.

He and his wife Annette, who was a cheerleader at Adair County High when Jim was playing there, have two children, Steve, 5, and Ann, 3½.



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JIM RICHARDS

Head Basketball Coach

Western Kentucky University

The 1975-76 season will be Jim Richard's fifth as head coach of the Hilltoppers. He succeeded current Western Athletic Director John Oldham in 1971 after three years as an assistant coach. He immediately, in the 1971-72 season, led Western to a tie for the Ohio Valley Conference title and a 15-11 record.

He and Oldham share a distinction held by no other coach in the history of the OVC, since they are the only coaches to win a share of the league title in their first years as head coaches. Oldham won his first OVC crown at Tennessee Tech in 1955-56, nine years before coming to Western.

In 1972-73, despite a wave of injuries that reached almost epidemic proportions in December, Richards brought the Hilltoppers back from an 0-6 league start to win six of their last eight games and finish with a 10-16 record.

The following year, another whirlwind finish gave the Hilltoppers an overall 15-10 record and fourth place in the tough OVC race with an 8-6 mark. The performance won OVC Coach-of-the-Year honors for Richards by vote of his fellow coaches. Last season, playing what may have been the Hilltoppers' toughest schedule ever, his team finished second in the league at 11-3 and with a 16-8 overall record that included important non-conference wins over both Purdue and then-fourth-ranked LaSalle.

He will enter the 1975-76 season with an overall 56-45 record for his four years at the WKU helm.

Richards' leadership of the Hilltoppers is another chapter in a continuing success story. His career as a player was no real indication of the phenomenal success he would later enjoy as a coach. He was a solid reserve player, but never a starter, at Adair County High before graduating in 1954.

(MORE)

As a student at Western, he was a baseball player who attracted several professional offers and kept statistics for the late E. A. Diddle's basketball team. After his junior year, he changed his mind about becoming a dentist and set his sights on a coaching career.

The 38-year-old Richards joined the Western coaching staff following a high school coaching career that could be termed nothing less than brilliant. It began at Auburn (Ky.) High School in 1959, where his teams won 64 games against 30 losses over three seasons. From Auburn he went to Glasgow (Ky.) High, where the Scotties' five-year record was 122-27, a winning percentage of .819.

His high school coaching stint was climaxed in March, 1968, when he led Glasgow to the Kentucky State championship and a 32-2 record. Shortly afterward he was voted the state's "Coach of the Year" award by his fellow coaches across the Commonwealth. He joined the Western staff only a few months later.

Richards' teams have always been associated with an aggressive, pressing type of defense and a running style of offense. His basic basketball philosophy revolved around his defense.

"Whatever the sport, you like to build a strong defense first," he declares. "But there's more to the game than that. I believe that you have to be aggressive and active on defense---even more so than on offense.

"I also believe that if you have a lot of movement in your defense, you are likely to get a lot of movement, which is a basic necessity, in your offense. If you get lazy or static on one end of the floor, you'll probably get the same way at the other end."

Richards and his wife, Annette, who was a cheerleader at Adair County High when he was playing there, have two children, Steve, 12, and Ann, 10.

His relaxation most often takes the form of a fast game of Hearts with friends or a round of golf.

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Oct 1975



### ... Western's 'Mr. Nice'

I agree 100 per cent with sports writer Tom Patterson's Feb. 23 story, "Western's Richards 'Mr. Nice.'" Those of us at State Street United Methodist Church who see him and each member of his family nearly every Sunday (even when he has played out of town the night before) know where he looks for support and solace.

cg 3/25/76 MRS. C. C. HILDRETH  
1466 Mount Ayr Dr., Bowling Green, Ky.



Staff Photo by Pam Seaulding

JIM RICHARDS: At Western, he is still his own man.

## Western's Richards 'Mr. Nice'

By TOM PATTERSON

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky.—Because this is a place where a coach's reputation changes with wins and losses, being head basketball coach at Western Kentucky University is no easy chore.

Not even for Jim Richards, a fellow who seems cool enough to handle even the worst adversities.

He is a complex man, as a coach of the most respected in the Ohio Valley Conference. He is a man who came in under dire conditions and has continued to keep Western Kentucky basketball under high acclaim. But none of it has been easy.

Richards is in his fifth season. He is Western's fifth coach. Before him were the late Ed Diddle and Johnny Oldham, who were blessed with players and success. Tough acts to follow, indeed.

He wore a flat-top when he came in and was hard to talk to. A man spent an hour of relaxation with Richards yesterday, rapping about thousands of things, among them the coach's hair, which now is long, with traces of gray.

"Gray goes with getting old," he said. Never would he say that gray hair, perhaps, comes with coaching, especially coaching at Western.

Enough for the history. Let us forget that Oldham lost his first game at Western against Belmont College. Forget that Diddle's coaching career ended with consecutive 5-16 records.

Instead, let's focus upon Richards, who never has been totally accepted by many Western folks.

How come? Because he is Jim Richards mainly. Because he sits on the bench passively during a game, his insides turning every way but loose. Because he is The Nice Guy. Because he never has produced the great winner. These are some of the things most often said about the man. Most of it is the wailing of unsuccessful men.

Now a question: Is it possible for Jim Richards to accomplish more?

He became coach in the month of April, not exactly the best time to begin recruiting. He walked into a situation where a program had blossomed with a third-place finish in the NCAA Tournament. And he walked into a mess.

It is not worth going into again, all the probation, the illegal recruiting, the things which surely tore Western down and certainly make Richards ache inside to recall.

win. His team plays Eastern here tonight. After that comes Austin Peay. Two victories and Western will win its first league title outright since 1971. It shared one in 1972.

"Our school philosophy isn't the same as a Maryland or a UCLA," said Richards. "Our coaches teach, and we don't have the money those schools have in their programs. That's the way it should be. But the American public will never let it be that way."

Jim Richards, Mr. Nice. He went 13 seasons as a basketball coach without drawing a technical foul. He earned one this season at Florida State.

When he mentioned it, he breathed a great sigh, like a youngster who has realized a grave mistake.

"I was a referee for four years. I appreciated the guys who sat on the bench and stayed cool."

The whole point to be made—perhaps

long past due is that Richards is a winner in more ways than are imaginable to the guy who pays four bucks for a ticket.

He makes a joke, which says much for the road he has traveled, by confessing: "The one thing I regret is that I haven't recruited a Bill Walton. That would make me a better coach."

Richards remains his own man through all this.

Yet winning, is the thing and only at the University of Utopia will it ever be different. Richards knows this.

"More coaches than ever before will quit this season," he says. "Next year, even more will quit. It'll be that way with officials, too."

Perhaps someday, long after Richards has gone, Western will have great players, yet will be wanting—even more than now—to win. Maybe then, they will come to appreciate Mr. Nice.

But the point is, a lot of the things he inherited, he did not create himself.

There is more to coaching than just winning, however, but Richards' track record of 71-53 generally is the sole thing he is judged upon. Hardly fair for anyone, especially a man who is so aware of the other aspects of coaching.

Like seeing a player graduate. "Hey, that's something," he said. "When a guy goes out and gets that diploma then becomes successful, there's nothing better."

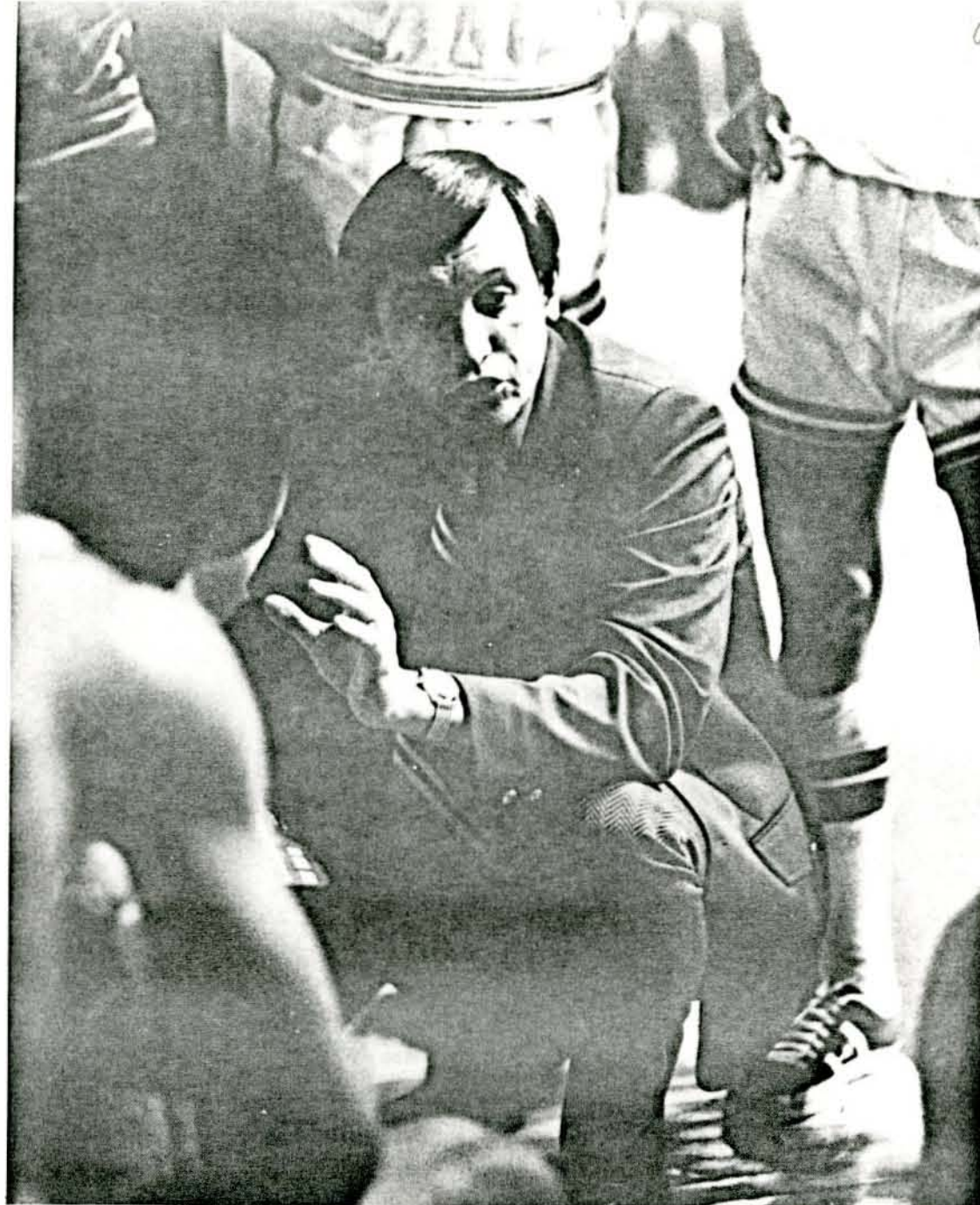
Or like running what he calls "a quality program," one which is overflowing with class.

"I've turned away good recruits because of character," he said. "They can destroy a program. A program can be a winner by having something more than just W's in the column."

Times change many things. Where Western once owned the Ohio Valley Conference, like Kentucky owned the SEC, Richards now finds it difficult to



"Not only is he  
a  
top-flight coach,  
but there  
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enough  
nice guys left  
in this  
profession."



Coach Richards conducts a quick strategy session during a timeout as his '75-76 Hilltoppers drive toward a 20-win season and another Ohio Valley Conference title.

# Coach and Gentleman

By ED GIVEN

Jim Richards Won the OVC

Tournament March 3-4

Posting His 101st win

for the Western Hilltoppers.

WKU drew Syracuse in the NCAA

1st round at Knoxville

When Western Basketball Coach Jim Richards announced his intention to withdraw from coaching, there were still five weeks to go in the season.

During that five weeks, unsolicited testimonials to Richards' coaching ability and character were expressed by many people who are actively involved in Ohio Valley Conference basketball.

One opposing coach said, "I sure hate to see him get out (of coaching). Not only is he a top-flight coach, but there just aren't enough nice guys left in this profession. And here is still another one leaving."

A veteran OVC referee reflected, "If every coach around this league was the gentleman Jim Richards is,

officials would be asking to work in this conference for nothing."

The consensus of such remarks brought out two pertinent facts about Richards' work in the seven years he guided Hilltopper basketball fortunes:

1) Hardly anybody around knows the game better than Jim Richards; and

2) Few people in the coaching ranks have been more highly regarded for their conduct and character.

With that kind of reputation among "insiders," why, then, has he decided to move out of the coaching field?

"The game isn't what it used to be, as far as my own feelings about it are concerned," was Richards' reply when the above question was put to him.

He added, "So much of the fun has gone out of it."

When asked to elaborate, Richards came across as something of a philosopher as he carefully tried to put his thoughts into words.

"Youngsters don't react to discipline and authority the way they did when I first got into coaching," he said.



Richards and junior guard Darryl Turner try to solve an opponent's defense on the Western bench during a recent Hilltopper game.

"Now, I'm not talking only about athletes or basketball players. I'm talking about youngsters in general. Players just happen to be a part of that group.

"So often now, when authority or discipline enters into a situation, somebody feels you're infringing upon their rights. People, especially young people, are talking and thinking in terms of TOTAL freedom.

"Basketball—at least the way I have always coached it—calls for togetherness, one-ness, unity. That means self-sacrifice for the good of the team, self-discipline.

"Basketball requires discipline even more than most other sports, because you have only five people involved in a game situation at a given time, and their overall effectiveness depends on CONSTANT interaction with each other. Total freedom for any individual just won't work.

"It has always been a game in which any individual had to virtually walk a 'tight rope' between individual abilities and actions, and the willingness to 'give in' to the team concept. I believe it's more difficult than ever for individuals to know where they fit into that

'tight rope' situation now because of the attitudes reflected in our society.

"The relaxation of authority and discipline all through our society, in sports, in education, in the home, has all played a part in this. We're all to blame. So, I guess, in a way, nobody's to blame."

The way Richards learned the game, first at Adair County High School under Coach John Burr, then as a statistician with Coach Ed Diddle at Western, he probably has leaned more heavily on the team concept of the sport than many other coaches.

He explained, "I think this has been reflected in the fact that so many of our teams while I've been here at Western have gotten stronger as the season went on. It took us the early part of the season to work our squad into the kind of cohesiveness and unity that I believe it takes to play the game."

The facts back him up. His 1972-73 team won six of their last eight games, the following year it was seven of the last eight, the next season six of the final seven, then nine of the last 10 in 1975-76, and five of the final seven last season.

Speaking with obviously mixed emotions about leaving coaching, Richards said, "Sure, there are kids left around who will put the team above themselves, who will play hard every time out and really go out and break their backs for you.

"But I believe there is a lower percentage of that type of youngsters around now than ever before. Therefore, they are spread much thinner than ever. No one team is going to get many of that type very consistently."

Then, with a bit of an impish grin that let you know he was getting at least partially into a "put-on," he added, "You know, I was still wearing a flat-top (hair-cut) when I came to Western as an assistant coach (in 1968).

"Sometimes, I get to thinking that the differences in the attitudes of players came into play at the same time that long hair came in style."

Then he added, "But I realize that the long, unkempt hair was not the source of the problem. It was just a symptom."

In summing up his decision to hang up his coaching togs, he said, "I guess I'm just like an old oak tree. I've grown too straight for too long. It hurts now to try to bend too much."

He'll leave the coaching ranks with some credentials that are pretty impressive.

For example, of all the teams in the OVC, only Austin Peay had a better winning percentage in league games during Richards' six-year coaching tenure going into the 1977-78 season.

Only the Governors won or tied for more OVC titles (3) in that span than Richards' Hilltoppers, who won one championship outright, tied for another and in 1977-78 finished third and won the OVC post-season tournament. No other OVC school played as prestigious a non-conference schedule as WKU.

There is one tremendous plus about Richards' decision to retire from active coaching: he'll still be around to help guide, administer and promote Western athletics as coordinator of men's athletics under Athletic Director John Oldham.

MR. GIVEN is assistant director of public relations at Western. He supervises sports information at Western and is a contributing editor of Western Alumnus.



Will conclude season

## Richards to resign as Western's coach

January 20, 1978  
Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University basketball coach Jim Richards has asked to be reassigned to another position at the school at the end of the current season, thus relinquishing the post he has held for seven years.

Richards told his team of the decision at yesterday's practice.

"This is something I have been considering for three or four seasons," he explained, "so it is not a quick decision."

"I feel our basketball program is presently in a position that will enable my successor to have a good opportunity to be successful. By making my resignation known now, it will enable the university to commence the search for my replacement and permit the appointment of a new coach to be early enough for him to have an opportunity to recruit his own players this spring."

"I think it is fair to say that the recent performances of the present team provide the basis for a good nucleus for the immediate future."

Richards' Hilltopper squad is riding a four-game winning streak, has an overall 7-8 record and is tied for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference with a 3-1 record in league play.

Richards' coaching career at Western includes three seasons as assistant coach under present Hilltopper athletic director John Oldham. His overall record as head coach is 93-78.

Western Kentucky tied for the OVC title in 1971-72, his first season as head coach, and won both the league's regular season and tournament championships in 1975-76. His players have included eight All-OVC selections.

He was voted the OVC's Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches in 1973-74 and 1975-76.

"The loyalties and confidence that my superiors at Western have shown in me throughout the past 10 seasons are deeply appreciated," Richards commented. "There is no way I can truly express my heartfelt thanks."

"In addition, I want to express my appreciation for the interest and support that have come from students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends."

In accepting Richards' resignation as head coach and acknowledging his request for reassignment, Western's president, Dr. Dero G. Downing, told Richards, "I am firm in the belief that the tradition of excellence in athletics that has been established at Western accrues certain benefits that result from having a mutual source of institutional pride and a focal point of interest around which all can rally. As the head basketball coach at Western, you have recognized the value of this tradition and have worked unflinchingly to sustain the excellence to which the university is committed."

Downing indicated he would take immediate steps to appoint an advisory search committee to give assistance in the development of recommendations for naming a new coach.

University officials indicated that Richards would continue with his teach-

ing duties and that details concerning specific additional assignments would be determined later.

Oldham, Western's athletic director since Richards succeeded him as head coach, said, "I respect his (Richards') decision to relinquish the position, since I am familiar with some of the heavy demands in the coaching profession."

"He has been outstanding in his performance as our head basketball coach and I am appreciative of the many contributions he has made to our athletic program."

Dr. John D. Minton, vice president for administrative affairs and chairman of the university's athletic committee, added, "I feel that coach Richards has led our basketball program during a challenging period in its history and that he has contributed greatly to it during the years in which he has served as both assistant and head coach."

Richards is a native of Columbia, Ky., and held high school coaching positions at Auburn and Glasgow before joining the Western coaching staff in 1968. He was named Kentucky's High School Coach of the Year in March, 1968, after leading Glasgow to the State Tournament championship and a 32-2 record.

## Father of lawmaker, Western coach dies

3/23/78 Special to The Courier-Journal

COLUMBIA, Ky. — Demaree Richards of Columbia, father of Western Kentucky University basketball coach, Jim Richards, and state Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, died yesterday in Columbia. He was 76.

## Services are set 3/24/78 for coach's father

Special to The Courier-Journal

COLUMBIA, Ky. — The funeral for Demaree Richards, father of Western Kentucky University basketball coach, Jim Richards, and state Rep. Jody Richards, D-Bowling Green, will be at 10 a.m. today at Grissom-Maupin-Heskamp & Morrison Funeral Home here. Burial will be in City Cemetery here.

Richards, 76, died Wednesday in Columbia.

He is also survived by his wife, the former Mary Stevens.



#### Richards joins

Jim Richards of Western Kentucky University will join the Board of Directors at the Kentucky chapter of the Council of the Advancement and Support of Education.

The election of officers and board members came during the Case-K fall conference at Spindletop Hall in Lexington.

Case-K is the state organization of Case.

## Richards pick as interim HAF director

By JOE MEDLEY

The Daily News

Jim Richards will be the interim Hilltopper Athletic Foundation executive director while the HAF searches for a permanent director. HAF board director president Jim Smith said today.

Contrary to news reports, there will be no press conference to announce Richards' move from his post as Alumni Affairs director. "We'll put out a press release soon," Smith said.

Richards, who served as HAF executive director for one year in the late 1970s, said he is glad

to be back.

"I'm looking forward to it. I've enjoyed Alumni Affairs, and I like being where I'm at now," Richards said.

A search committee chaired by HAF board member Joe Cook and consisting of three other board members — Yvonne Turner, Jim Scott and Joe Earl Campbell — plus Western Kentucky University president Thomas Meredith will pick the HAF's new top administrator within 60 to 90 days, Smith said.

Smith said Richards, 56, will not be a candidate for the HAF job on a permanent basis.

Reliable sources at Western have told the Daily News Richards will become the interim athletics director. Present AD Lou Marciani is looking for jobs at other schools, and he could be moved into another position at Western until his contract expires June 30, 1994.

Richards declined comment on the athletic director's job.

As for the HAF, Richards will replace Gary West, who resigned effective Friday to become executive director of the Bowling Green-Warren County Tourism Commission.

Dissatisfied because he wasn't offered West's job on a permanent basis, HAF assistant director DeLane Simpson has also resigned effective Aug. 30. However, Smith said Simpson will do work for the HAF until Dec. 15.

"He's going to stay on and work on the auction only," Smith said, referring to the annual HAF auction.

Richards has served as Western's Alumni Affairs director since 1986. He was head coach of the school's men's basketball team starting in the 1971-72 season. When he gave way to Gene Keady after the 1977-78 campaign, Richards had compiled a 102-84 record with two NCAA Tournament appearances. His best season was 1975-76, when the Hilltoppers finished 20-9 and lost 79-60 to Marquette in the NCAA tourney's first round.

Richards took over the HAF during fiscal year 1978-79, and that year saw the HAF budget grow from \$26,000 to \$128,000.

"It was mostly because of the Red Towel seating and parking and other things," Richards said about the budget burst he oversaw. "Anyone could've done it."

While Smith lauded Richards, Smith expressed disappointment over the resignations of West and Simpson.

"I regret that we lost them both, especially together at the same time," Smith said. "Gary made a decision to move on to something where he can use his talents to promote tourism, and I'm sorry DeLane decided to leave. I hope he'll move on to greater things."

The HAF is about to lose Smith as well. Board president-elect Tad Donnelly takes over Aug. 19.



# Richards is WKU's A.D. until June

By BOB WHITE  
Staff Writer

Jim Richards will work one more winter, but it will be as athletic director at Western Kentucky University, where he has been employed for 26 years.

Richards, 57, was named boss of Western athletics yesterday after having served as interim athletic director since September.

"Once next June rolls around, I will have had 35 years in the (public school) system, and it will be time to move on," he said. "It will be time to get out of the business and let a younger man take over."

WKU President Thomas C. Meredith wanted Richards, a Columbia, Ky., native who graduated from Western in 1959, to stay on.

"There are some things cooking, and he thought it would make it better for all of us to have me continue another year," Richards said. "Since he's the head coach and asked me to do it, that's what I'll do."

There is constant talk of restructuring college conferences, and Richards was involved in those negotiations over the past year.

"Jim could certainly retire but will continue to serve Western during the next year before stepping down," Meredith said in a release. "He is a true Westerner, and his loyalty to this university is evident in his willingness to devote his talents to supervising our athletic program at this critical time."

Richards said there are a lot of

possibilities that could develop in the near future.

"We need a conference to play (football) in and a conference championship to play for," he said. "I was concerned a year ago. I thought we might lose football, but now that program is strong."

If the Hilltoppers' old league, the Ohio Valley, would allow Western to be a member for football but not basketball, "we certainly would," Richards said.

He said Western is "not looking to run off" from the Sun Belt Conference in basketball but would listen to attractive offers.

Richards became interim athletic director after Dr. Lou Marciani left to become executive director of the National AAU in Indianapolis. Before that, Richards had been direc-

tor of alumni affairs since 1986.

After coaching high school basketball for eight years, guiding Glasgow's boys to the 1968 state championship, Richards returned to Western as an assistant coach under John Oldham.

When Oldham became athletic director, Richards moved up to head coach and compiled a 102-84 record over seven seasons starting in 1971-72. His teams won OVC titles in 1972 and '76 and played in the NCAA Tournament in '76 and '78. He was OVC Coach of the Year in 1974 and '78.

Richards worked as men's golf coach and coordinator of men's athletics until he went to the alumni affairs office.

"It's been a pleasure to serve this university," he said.

FROM : SPORTS INFO

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## Hilltopper Sports Information

Office of Sports Information

E.A. Diddle Arena / Western Kentucky University / Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Telephone -- (502) 745-4298 / FAX -- (502) 745-3444

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / Tuesday, July 26, 1994

Misc. / Contact: Paul Just, SID

### JIM RICHARDS NAMED ATHLETICS DIRECTOR AT WESTERN KENTUCKY

Bowling Green, Ky. -- Jim Richards, interim athletics director at Western Kentucky University, was named today as the athletics director for the 1994-95 academic year.

"Jim could certainly retire, but will continue to serve Western during the next year before stepping down," said WKU President Thomas C. Meredith. "He is a true Westerner and his loyalty to this University is evident in his willingness to devote his talents to supervising our athletic program at this critical time."

Richards has been serving as interim director of athletics during 1993-94 and said, "I am thankful for the opportunity to continue to serve my university. The past year has been a very rewarding and enlightening experience after being away from the athletics department for some time. Western athletics seem to be on a very positive track in many areas and I look forward to continuing to be a part of this outstanding program."

The Columbia, Kentucky, native graduated from Western in 1959 and then returned to his alma mater in 1968 as an assistant for Coach John Oldham after coaching the Glasgow Scotties high school team to a state championship.

Richards took over the head coaching position in 1971 when Oldham retired from coaching to become Western's athletics director. His teams won a pair of Ohio Valley Conference championships in 1972 and '76 and he took the Hilltoppers to NCAA post-season tournament play in 1976 and '78. The 1978 squad advanced to the "Sweet Sixteen" after upsetting nationally ranked Syracuse. Richards was selected as the OVC Coach-of-the-Year in 1974 and 1976.

Richards retired from basketball coaching in 1978 and served as the coordinator of men's athletics and men's golf coach until assuming the director of alumni affairs position in 1986. He remained as director until moving back to athletics in 1993 as interim athletics director.

-- WKU --



12/8/97

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

## Briefly

### Former Western coach heading computer biz

Jim Richards, a former Western Kentucky University athletic director and a former Glasgow High School and Western basketball coach, is leading Common Sense Connections Inc., in an effort to allow area computer buyers to deal directly with an area firm to obtain computers.

To do this, CSC has joined forces with Glasgow-based Homestead Computers.

CSC computers are available in Bowling Green at Play It Again Sports and Hilltopper Bookstore near Western's campus. They are available in Glasgow at A+ Check Advance.

CSC also offers cellular telephones, Internet service and pagers, among other technological items.



JIM RICHARDS

G GREEN, KENTUCKY

## RICHARDS

DN 7-27-94 continued from Page 1

Dero Downing, Ed Diddle, Jimmy Feix, John Oldham and, now, Jim Richards. People who saw a whole greater than themselves. Folks whose loyalty became obvious because they remained involved.



JIM RICHARDS

Head football coach Jack Harbaugh, whose career includes assistantships at big-time programs like Michigan and Stanford, proves loyal people come from within and without. Whose

loyalty was tested more than Harbaugh's? He and Feix stood and fought when Western's football program stared into a basket, the budget ax poised to fall in 1992.

Still scratching to buy adequate equipment and hire enough coaches to keep Western's players safe, Harbaugh said before the 1993 season he was seriously considering leaving after that season. He had connections, but he accepted a four-year contract extension Meredith promised and the Board of Regents delivered after an 8-3 season.

Search committee members, usually learned and experienced people, can use savvy to weed out egos and hire those who show genes of loyalty.

Though loyal people were once called "good old boys" in this space, we've learned to distinguish the two:

Good old boys allow each other and their institutions to slide into mediocrity; loyals would never let that happen.

Congratulations, Jim Richards, and much success.

## Youth baseball:

Page 3-B

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1994

# Loyalty, caring make Richards right for WKU

DN 7-27-94

Jim Richards talks in terms of what's good for Western Kentucky University, and that's why he's it.

Bucking Western's trend of hiring career-minded — which can mean self-oriented — people, Richards has been retained as athletics director, a position he has held on an interim basis since August.

It's refreshing.

Richards has worked at Western since 1968 as an assistant men's basketball coach, head men's basketball coach, men's golf coach, director of men's athletics, director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, director of alumni affairs and, finally, athletics director.

While stacking credentials of lifetime-achievement proportions, Richards has built a sense of caring for Western.

"I doubt they'll find anyone who cares more about Western than I do," Richards said during the national search to fill what's now his job, a national search that produced Richards and just two other finalists.

"They might find someone who knows a few more things," he said, "but not anyone who cares more."

When asked Tuesday if dropping the word "interim" from his title satisfied him personally, Richards shot from the heart.

"What's good for me is not the



Joe Medley

Daily News Sports Editor

question at all," he said. "It's what's good for the university. My ego was filled a long time ago."

It's nice to hear.

Richards' obvious closeness to Western rings ironic when one considers his predecessor, Lou Marciani — lauded by President Thomas Meredith for having a "cold eye" when hired — alienated some supporters by forging an agenda of change at warp speed.

Western can rightfully boast a great tradition. Long-timers will tell you those accomplishments belonged to a group of people who did what they did out of love for Western.

People like Kelly Thompson,

Continued On Page 5  
Column 4, This Section

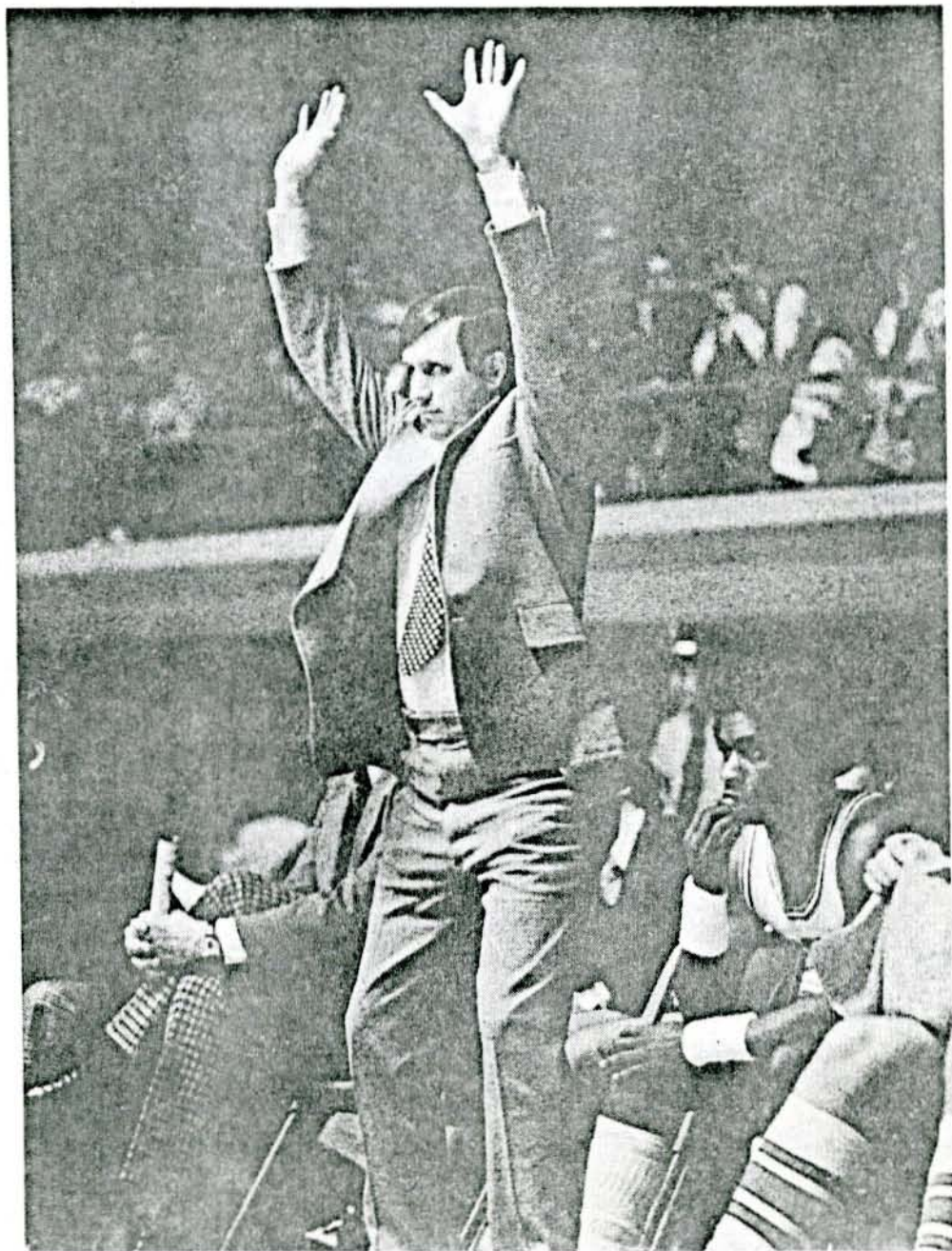


PCDN

3-20-74

Archived

# Richards named OVC's coach of year



## Fly named player of year

By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor  
Western head basketball coach Jim Richards has been named the Ohio Valley Conference coach of the year by his fellow coaches in the league.

Richards, when contacted at his office in Diddle Arena Monday, was completely surprised by the announcement, which was not to be released until today.

In the same release from the office of OVC commissioner Art Guepe, Austin Peay's Fly Williams was named the conference's player of the year.

"You really mean it?" Richards asked in amazement when informed of the coaches' voting. "Man, I thought you were just kidding."

In his third year as the Hilltoppers' head coach, Richards guided his squad to an 8-6 league record, good for fourth place, and a 15-10 mark overall.

"That's what surprises me," Richards said. "Usually the conference champion gets its coach named, not the team that finishes in fourth place."

Richards' fellow coaches obviously were impressed with Western's strong finish the past season, which saw them win seven of their last eight league games — losing only a heart-breaking 86-84 decision to Morehead.

"It's always an honor to have people in your same profession do something like this for you," Richards added, "and especially when we didn't win the league this year."

"But the guys that really deserve the credit are the players," he continued. "It would have been real easy for them to get down in the middle of the year when things weren't going so well, but they kept plugging away and never gave up."

Richards won the honor by a narrow margin over Lake Kelly of Austin Peay, which tied for the OVC championship the past season after winning it outright a year ago.

Kelly was the league's coach of the year last season.

The voting for player of the year wasn't as close, and Williams' being named probably surprised no one who followed the OVC even from a distance this season.

The Governors' 6-5 sophomore averaged 27.5 points a game this year, good enough for first in the conference and third in the nation, while his averaged of 10.9 rebounds per outing was third best in the league.

The moody but talented New York City product also hit 46 per cent from the field and 77 per cent from the foul stripe, and was named All-OVC for the second straight year by the league coaches Tuesday.



DN 5-13-82

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## City youth dies in wreck

A Bowling Green youth was killed Wednesday in a one-car accident on Kentucky 252, eight miles north of Scottsville.

The victim was identified as Ann Richards, 17, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Richards of 813 Ironwood Drive. Richards is men's coordinator of athletics and men's golf coach at Western Kentucky University.

State police said Miss Richards was the driver of a car which failed to negotiate a turn, ran off the road and overturned.

Two passengers in the Richards car, Lori Rennirt, 17, and Terri Jones, 15, both of Bowling Green, were treated at Allen County War Memorial Hospital and released.

The accident occurred at 11:50 a.m.

Miss Richards was a senior at Warren Central High School and a member of State Street United Methodist Church.

Funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday at State Street United Methodist Church with burial in Fairview Cemetery. Visitation is at J.C. Kirby and Son

Funeral Home. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to a scholarship fund for Warren Central students which is being established through the College Heights Foundation at Western Kentucky University.

In addition to her parents, survivors include a brother, Steve Richards of Bowling Green, and two grandmothers, Mrs. E.P. Waggener and Mrs. Demaree Richards, both of Columbia.

## Two cosmonauts launched

# WKU regents approve administrative shuffle

BY CRAIG DEZERN  
Special to The Courier-Journal

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — The Western Kentucky University board of regents approved a shuffle of the administration yesterday, appointing Cecile Garmon and Howard Bailey to higher posts than any woman or black has held at the school.

Garmon, who was an assistant to the president, was named director of budget and planning. Bailey, already Western's top-ranking black as assistant dean of student affairs, was appointed dean of student life.

Four other administrators were promoted in the shift, designed to "streamline the administration," Regent J. Anthony Page said. The four, and their new jobs, are Jerry Wilder, vice president for student affairs; Stephen D. House, executive assistant to the president; James W. Feix, director of athletics; and James S. Richards, director of alumni affairs.

"We picked the best possible candidates," Chairman Joe Iracane said. "We're proud it's not tokenism — it's the best."

Wilder replaces John Minton, who is retiring. House is replacing Garmon, and Feix is replacing John Oldham, who also is retiring. Richards, in turn, is replacing Feix.

Bailey's new job had been held by acting Dean Ronald D. Beck, who is now associate director of alumni affairs.

Garmon replaces Paul Cooke, who was promoted earlier to executive vice president for administrative affairs, a new post.

Faculty Regent Mary Ellen Miller said she approved of the appointments but was concerned that the positions were not posted or advertised. "The faculty expected the positions to be posted," she said.

President Kern Alexander said no advertisements were needed.

"We weren't seeking to go out and hire people," he said. "We have good people here."

Page said the new system will operate more efficiently in efforts to recruit and retain students and to raise money.

As part of the reorganization, the Office of Scholastic Development will organize a community college, to start in the fall of 1987.

"This would be an effort to move Western to educating the non-traditional student," Alexander said.

"There are certainly many students out there who can't afford to go to school full time. They have to work a job," he said.

The community college could attract people within 50 miles of Bowling Green who might not continue

See WKU  
PAGE 3, col. 3, this section

## WKU promotes 6 administrators

Continued from Page B 1

their education otherwise, Alexander said after the meeting.

"This is not an attempt to increase our enrollment," he said, "but it does serve the people of this area."

The college will offer "an array of courses" that will lead to two-year associate degrees. Initially, no full-time faculty members will be hired, he said. Until enrollment builds, part-time faculty and existing WKU professors will teach.

State universities are authorized by the General Assembly to operate

community colleges, Alexander said, and the money is available.

The community college needs to be separate from WKU's other programs because "society looks upon the university as being a quality academic institution," he said. A community college "has a more immediate occupational pursuit."

The board also approved a \$72.9 million budget for the 1986-87 school year, an increase of \$4.2 million over this year.

WKU faculty members and administrators will receive a 4.5 percent salary increase, with a possibility of an additional 1 percent merit increase. Staff members will receive a 5 percent increase.





Daily News 1/20/78



Daily News 1/20/78

### The teacher, the cheerleader and the man

WESTERN COACH Jim Richards, who announced his resignation Thursday effective at the end of the current basketball season, has been a man of many moods. Left, Richards draws up a play while players and assistant

Lanny Van Eman look on. Above, Richards joins Van Eman and Mike Warner in applauding a big basket. Right, Richards signals a play while wearing a "tired" look he talked about in the story below.



Daily News 1/20/78

# Richards is 'getting out' at end of season

By CLARK HANES

Daily News Sports Editor  
Jim Richards has decided it's time for a change.

Following basketball practice Thursday afternoon, at which time Richards informed his staff and his players of the decision, Western's head coach of seven years announced his resignation effective at the end of the current season.

However, the decision was made almost a week ago. In an interview shortly after practice Thursday, Richards said the issue was settled Sunday night in a meeting with athletic director John Oldham, Athletic Committee chairman Dr. John Minton and Pres. Dero Downing at the president's home.

"There was absolutely no pressure whatsoever," Richards said. "It was strictly the decision of me and my wife, and it was something I've been contemplating for about three or four years now."

During his seven years of running the Western basketball program, Richards has had his ups and downs. The 36-70 career

mark he took into the 1977-78 season was good enough for a lot of places, but not good enough for many Western supporters spoiled from the success of years gone by.

Nevertheless, Richards never lost the unilateral support of the people that counted—Oldham, Minton, Downing and others in the administration. So why the decision to step down at the end of the season?

"I'm just tired, so tired," he explained. "Tired of the whole ramification of things that go on in order to make this job function. If there was a time when you ever got through with everything it might be different, but there is no time."

"My wife thinks I'm going crazy," he grinned. "This had turned into a 13 month-a-year ordeal, and my family was growing up without me."

A light on the phone in Richards' office started blinking, indicating an incoming call. He ignored it.

"I'm tired of that thing, too," he added, pointing to the phone. "I'm tired of staying down here after hours getting calls from

people wanting to know if the pool is open. It's a wonder my ear hasn't cauliflowered."

"There's only three ways you can get out of this business," Richards continued. "You can die, you can get fired or you can quit. Well, I wasn't crazy about dying on the job or getting fired, and I wanted to get out while things were going pretty good."

After a disappointing start, things had been going good for Western in recent games. On the eve of Saturday night's game with Murray, weather permitting, the Hilltoppers were riding a four game winning streak and held a share of first place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Going into the 7:30 p.m. clash at Diddle Arena, Western stood 3-1 in OVC play and 7-8 overall.

"I really would have preferred waiting until the end of the season to make the announcement," Richards said, "because I wasn't sure how it would affect the team, but I didn't think that would be fair to whoever took my place. This way, maybe things will be settled by the time recruiting starts."

Here's what he had to say about the things that had helped to take the fun out of his job:

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"Besides," he added, "we had a real spirited practice today after I talked to the team. I think we'll be ready for Murray, and I think we'll go out as conference champions if there's any way possible."

For a variety of reasons, perhaps recruiting more



Page 6

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1978

than anything else, coaching had lost its appeal for Richards. Other problems he listed were changing attitudes among players today, NCAA probation and a case of the OVC blues.

All were problems he had never had to face while building a brilliant high school coaching record.

Richards' teams at Auburn went 64-30 in three years, and a five-year stint at Glasgow saw him win over 80 percent of the time (122-27). After leading Glasgow to the 1968 state high school title, Richards joined the Western staff as an assistant under Oldham.

Here's what he had to say about the things that had helped to take the fun out of his job:

Western played by the rules after that, according to Richards, but that may have made the Hilltoppers one of a kind.

"It's deplorable," said Richards, referring to the cheating that goes on today. "I'm sure it goes on in other phases of life, too, but that doesn't mean I have to like it."

Attitudes—According to Richards, times have changed in the world of college basketball.

"I can remember when coaches used to be set up on pedestals and were never questioned," he said. "I'm not saying that was right or wrong, but it sure made coaching a lot easier. I lived through that era, and it's been difficult for me to try to get used to the way things are now."

"I've always told my players I'm kind of like an old tree," he added. "I just don't bend very easily."

Richards has not been without his critics, and one of their favorite arguments was the high turnover of

players in the program. Especially in the last couple of years, the premature departure of players had become commonplace.

"I think all that has been a product of our system today," he observed. "Now that freshman can play on the varsity, most of them expect to play right away or they'll leave."

"It hurts your program when kids leave like that," he added, "but I asked a lot of them to leave for disciplinary reasons. I'm sure I'm old-fashioned, but I don't believe in smoking and drinking and using drugs."

Probations—For a long list of minor recruiting problems today, Richards violations, Western was said, are the lack of slapped with a two-year television exposure and the

noted, "I can't say how much it hurt us, but I know it did."

The OVC—According to Richards, Western and the rest of the OVC enjoyed a great degree of success during the 60's because of an early willingness to accept the black athlete. Nobody else wanted them then, or so it seemed.

"Nobody in the SEC was taking them," he recalled, "and for a while our conference was actually stronger from top to bottom than theirs. That's not the case anymore."

The league's biggest problems today, Richards said, are the lack of television exposure and the distinct possibility of losing its automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

"Television is an awfully powerful force to contend with," he warned, "and all it's doing is helping the rich get richer. It's hurting our crowds, and it's hurting our recruiting. My breath isn't that much worse than Digger Phelps', but wouldn't you go to Notre Dame instead of Western if you got the chance?"

People really took some pot shots at us during that time."

Richards wasn't referring to the obvious, like signs around the OVC proclaiming Western as "the best team money could buy." Instead, he was talking about the number of prospects Western lost because of rival recruiters knocking his program.

"People don't hold any punches in recruiting," he noted. "I can't say how much it hurt us, but I know it did."

If it sounds like Richards is getting out of coaching with nothing but bad memories, that isn't the case. He talked about his first team at Auburn that won 22 in a row, and his last team at Glasgow that won the state tournament. He talked about setting up Western's defense for the big NCAA tournament win over Kentucky in 1971, and he talked about tying for the OVC title in his first year as a head coach a year later.

"Hey, I've had some super times in this business," he said. "For somebody who came to Western as a baseball player and got to stay in the basketball dorm because he swept Mr. Diddle's sidewalks, it's been a pretty big thrill to be head coach at Western."

"I hope to stay on a Western in some capacity," he added. "I've been close to Western since I left home—a skinny, burr-headed, 17-year-old. It hasn't been totally settled yet, but I hope to stay somewhere within the realm of athletics."

Whatever the future holds for Jim Richards, he feels he has made the right decision. The headaches are already going away, he noted.

"It's a great relief," he said. "I haven't felt this good since my first team at Auburn won 22 in a row, and somebody finally beat us. My wife asked me how I felt after we had lost, and I told her it was like somebody had taken the weight of the world off my shoulders."

He added, "Spring is going to come early this year."

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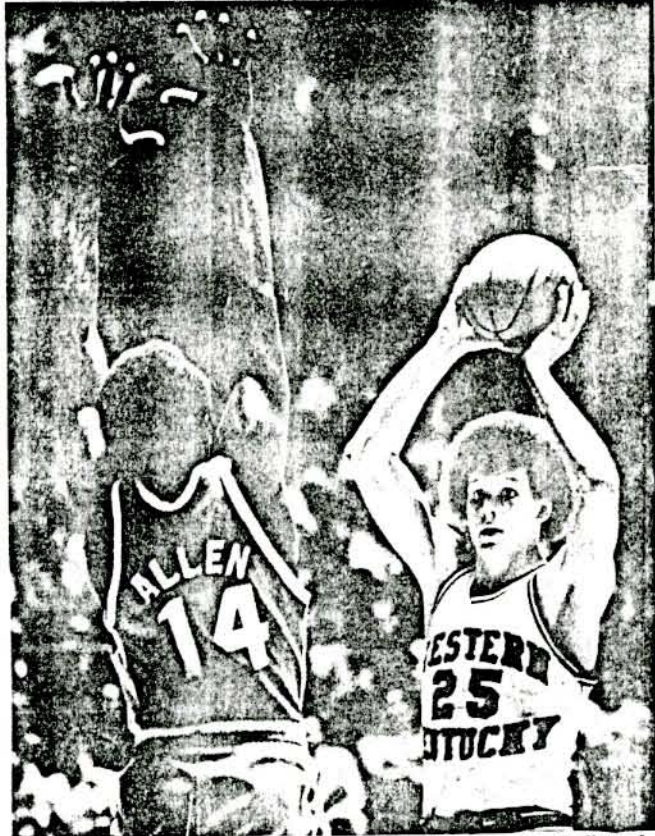
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Daily News 1/20/78

### Early departure

BILL SCILLIAN (25) was one of several Western players to leave the Hilltoppers' basketball program prematurely in the last couple of years. Western coach Jim Richards an-

nounced his resignation Thursday effective at the end of the season, and cited "changing attitudes" in players as one of the reasons he was stepping down.

(Staff photo)



# Richards tabbed as interim AD; search

By ERIC WOEHLER

The Daily News 8-26-93

Jim Richards made a name for himself at Western Kentucky University as a baseball player, coach of the men's basketball and golf teams, coordinator of men's athletics and alumni affairs director.

Now he's establishing himself as the Hilltoppers' most called-upon pinch-hitter.

Western President Thomas Meredith today named Richards, 57, interim athletics director. Lou Marciani, the school's AD since 1991, is leaving Western to become execu-



JIM RICHARDS

Richards who was tabbed for the helm until a permanent director was named.

tive director of the Amateur Athletic Union.

When Gary West in July left his post as director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation — Western's booster organization — it was

Marciani's departure from and Richards' elevation to athletics director had been rumored for more than a month.

"I was getting lots of teasing at the HAF (golf) tournament in Nashville yesterday," Richards said. "They had, of course, heard that Dr. Marciani was leaving and were speculating that I would be named interim athletics director."

"They were wondering if there's a Guinness record for interims."

Richards will continue to work with the HAF until another interim director is named early next week,

Meredith said. Marciani leaves Bowling Green for the AAU post in Indianapolis on Sept. 4.

The timing of the change at the helm of the athletics department is not ideal with the new academic year into its fourth day.

"It would have been a problem," Meredith said, "had anyone other than someone like Jim Richards had to fill in. ... Jim is a natural to fill in. He knows all the players."

Richards, a Lebanon native, came to Western as a student in 1954. He was a pro baseball prospect, a statistician for Coach E.A. D...

Marciani was introduced as the new director of the AAU at a news conference in Indianapolis on Wednesday.

"When I hired Lou Marciani, I asked him to take on some difficult tasks, and he addressed them — and that doesn't come without some scars," Meredith said. "But he guided us through an evolution, and he did so successfully."

Baseball coach Joel Murrie said Marciani joined his team on a road trip for a game at South Alabama shortly before becoming athletics director in 1991.

"And after seeing South Al and coming back to our campus, he was quite surprised to see such an antiquated facility for a Sun Belt Conference and Division I program," Murrie said. "He told me then that baseball would be a high priority."

Since then, chair-back seating and a new outfield fence have been added to Nick Denes Field. And last month, ground was broken for installation of lights at the field.

"Unfortunately," Murrie said, "it is as Lou makes a career move that we see the realization of his hard work. But they can't take that away from him."

## to start in '94

basketball teams and a dentistry major. By his junior year, he had decided against becoming a dentist and wanted to coach — which he did, beginning in 1960, at Auburn High School.

Richards was principal of the school for a year, moved on to Glasgow High in 1963 to coach basketball and returned to his alma mater as Johnny Oldham's assistant basketball coach in 1968. After a three-year apprenticeship, he was promoted to head basketball coach and guided the Hilltoppers to a 102-84 record across seven seasons.

In 1978, he became men's golf coach and coordinator of men's athletics under Oldham, who had moved into the AD's spot. In 1986, he left the athletics department to head Western's alumni affairs office.

"There aren't many people who have had the number of different jobs with this university that I have," Richards said. "... And there are very few people in the world who know more alumni of this uni-

versity than I do."

Which, no doubt, was no small factor in Meredith's decision.

In his two years as AD, Marciani oversaw many improvements to Western's athletic facilities, met budgets and enhanced the department's academic advisement office.

But his relationship with the boosters was strained — though, Meredith said, not so much that they unseated Marciani by tying their contributions to the new contract of men's basketball coach Ralph Willard with the stipulation that Marciani leave Western. "I can assure you that's not the case," the president said today.

Nonetheless, Marciani had feuded with the HAF's board of directors over spending jurisdiction. Richards might be viewed as a person who can bridge the gap between the donors, the HAF, and the benefactor, the athletics department.

"I hope so," he said. "My entire background has been dealing with people, trying to get to know them and understand them, getting along and pulling them together in a team relationship."

Tad Donnelly, president of the HAF's board, said, "Jim is so well known in the community and on a national level. Because of that, plus his energy level and his enthusiasm, I don't think there's any question he's the right man for the job."

Because of his confidence in Richards and this being a poor time to develop a pool of applicants, Meredith said the university would wait until early 1994 to begin a search for Marciani's permanent successor.

As for his interest in becoming Western's permanent AD, Richards said he needs "to get into the job, see what it entails. If I do a decent job and things look right, yes, I will become an applicant."

E 6 THE COURIER-JOURNAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1993

## Richards will be Western's interim A.D.

From Special and Staff Dispatches

Jim Richards was named interim athletic director at Western Kentucky University by school President Thomas C. Meredith yesterday.

Richards, 57, will replace Lou Marciani, who has been named executive director of the Amateur Athletic Union. Richards will continue to serve as interim director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation.

Richards has been at Western since 1968 and was head men's basketball coach from 1971-78. He became coordinator of men's athletics, head men's golf coach and executive director of the Hilltopper 100 Club in 1978 and served as director of alumni affairs from 1986-1993.

Western will begin its search for a new athletic director after the first of the year.

### AROUND KENTUCKY

**Women's basketball:** Western senior Debbie Houk strained cartilage in her left knee while playing in a pickup game this week and Monday will undergo the fourth knee surgery of her career. She is expected to be recovered before practice begins in November.

**College golf:** Tom Campbell, 23, who coached the Transylvania men's team, has replaced Pat Hume as men's coach at Kentucky Wesleyan. Campbell, who was an assistant women's basketball coach at Transy, has the same duty at Wesleyan, replacing Walter Lee.

**High school cross country:**

Thirty boys' and 30 girls' teams will compete in the annual St. Xavier Tiger Run tomorrow at Seneca Park. Trinity and Elizabethtown, last year's state Class AAA and AA champions, head the boys' field.

Courtney Adams, the Indiana state titlist in 1992, and her Indianapolis Brebeuf team are considered the favorites in the girls' race, which will start at noon. The boys' varsity race is set for 12:30 p.m.

A freshman boys' race will start at 10:30 a.m., followed by the girls' junior varsity at 11 and the boys' junior varsity at 11:30.

**College track:** Marshall has signed John Perkins, who ran on St. X's state championship teams in 1991 and 1993. St. X coach Frank Cooper said. Perkins won the 3,200-meter race last spring.



# Richards to remain Western AD, plans to retire next year

By JOE MEDLEY  
*The Daily News*

Jim Richards is no longer just the smiling quality temporary positioned to massage tempers around Western Kentucky University athletics circles.

Richards, 58, is now positioned to lead Western athletics through a year that likely will dictate the department's future.

Today, Richards dropped the word "interim" from his title to become just athletics director, beating two other finalists for the job he plans to hold for another year.

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I anticipate retiring June 30 of next year," he said. "If for any reason the president (Thomas Meredith) should determine I should stay in the job longer, we'll talk about it."

Having worked for Western since 1968, Richards became interim athletics director Aug. 26, 1993, a time when



JIM RICHARDS

many Western supporters fumed over programs instituted by former AD Louis Marciani.

Now, Western is seeking new conference affiliations for basketball and football. It's a time when the NCAA is mulling gender equity and restructuring of Division I.

Richards is no longer just a character actor in the ongoing drama of Western athletics. He could play a leading role, but he stayed in character when asked what his heightened role meant to him.

"What's good for me is not the question at all," he said. "It's

what's good for the university. My ego was filled a long time ago."

Richards said a conference affiliation for Western's Division I-AA football program is "closer than it has been in a long time."

He said he has had talks with athletics directors and Ohio Valley Conference commissioner Dan Beebe about some kind of alignment that would include Western in football only.

The outcome probably will not be known until after the NCAA's annual convention in January.

"You have gender equity, and it

depends on what happens with NCAA restructuring," Richards said. "There are many variables that have to play out."

As for the basketball conference search, Western has hired former Sun Belt commissioner Vic Bubas as a consultant.

The Metro and Great Midwest are close to a merger, but Western is not a factor because it lacks I-A football. Western has contacted the Atlantic 10, but a league official said two weeks ago the conference has no plans to expand.

"You have to be invited to go to

any different conference," Richards said, "and as of now, we've not been invited."

Richards hopes he can change that.

"I've developed a personal friendship with some of the ADs in the OVC that could enhance our opportunities in football," he said, "and hopefully the personal involvement I have with other ADs might make a difference in basketball."

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## RICHARDS

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Richards became an assistant men's basketball coach at Western in 1968, then became head coach in 1971. In seven seasons as head coach, he won two OVC titles and reached NCAA Tournament play twice. He was OVC coach of the year in 1974 and 1976.

Since retiring from basketball in 1978, he has served as coordinator of men's athletics, men's golf coach and director of alumni affairs.

"He is a true Westerner," Meredith said in a prepared statement, "and his loyalty to this university is evident in his willingness to devote his talents to supervising our athletic program at this crucial time."

Keith Inman, chief fund-raiser for University of Maryland athletics, and Charlie Carr, senior associate athletics director at East Carolina, also interviewed for the job

Richards now officially holds.

In other personnel actions, Western hired former football All-American Virgil Livers as a part-time assistant coach and former NFL defensive lineman Terry Price as a full-time assistant.

Livers, who resigned after four seasons as Greenwood High School's head coach, will continue to teach at Greenwood while coaching Western's receivers from

August to December.

Price played for the Chicago Bears, Miami Dolphins and San Diego Chargers before injuries forced him back to his alma mater, Texas A&M, to become a graduate assistant.

Also, Western will not renew the contract of tennis coach Jody Bingham. It's not known when a new tennis coach will be named.



# Richards says his caring a strength; Carr interviews

By JOE MEDLEY  
The Daily News

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Jim Richards puts his pitch to remain Western Kentucky University's athletics director succinctly.

"I doubt they'll find anyone who cares more about Western than I do," he said. "They might find someone who knows a few more things, but not any one who cares more."

Including Richards, Western has interviewed at least three candidates for the job that Richards has held on



JIM RICHARDS

an interim basis since fall 1993.

Richards and Keith Inman, chief fund-raiser for University of Maryland athletics, interviewed last week. Today, Western entertained East Carolina University senior associate athletics direc-

tor Charlie Carr.

Friends close to former Western and University of Alabama baseball coach Barry Schollenberger said he has been contacted about the job by Western President Thomas Meredith. Schollenberger could not be reached today, and Meredith is traveling in Europe.

Jim Ramsey, chairman of Western's nine-person search committee, said Richards, Inman and Carr are the only interviews that have been scheduled.

"I hope to talk with President Meredith next week," Ramsey said. "I'm sure he'll ask all of the people they (the candidates) have met with and get feedback. Then we'll go from there."

A 1959 Western graduate, Richards has been employed at the school since becoming an assistant basketball coach in 1968. He was head basketball coach from 1971 to 1978, compiling a 102-84 record with two NCAA Tournament appearances.

Richards has been coordinator of men's athletics, men's golf coach, executive director of the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation and director for Alumni Affairs.

Richards became interim athletics director to soothe miffed supporters after former Athletics Director Lou Marciani's stormy two-year tenure.

Richards has a familiar split-toothed grin — he often says he parts his teeth in the middle — plus established relationships with Western supporters.

As interim athletics director, Richards has overseen hiring of a new HAF executive director, a new men's basketball coach, a marketing director and an assistant.

He chaired the search committee that recommended men's basketball coach Matt Kilcullen and conducted most of the interviewing. Ralph Willard's replacement was found about two weeks after his resigna-

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## WESTERN

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tion.

In March, Richards juggled the men's and women's Sun Belt Conference tournaments plus the girls' State Tournament.

"I've not had time to feel much," he said. "I've just tried to keep up with the routines of the job, help our new people into their jobs and give direction."

Richards said it doesn't take a Ph.D. to see what Western athletics needs.

"Money. Loads of it," he said. "We could handle about 10 people bequeathing about \$500,000 apiece into a trust fund."

Western awaits the NCAA's decisions on gender equity, which could make athletics more expensive, and restructuring, which could squeeze low-budget Division I schools out of the NCAA decision-making progress and, some fear, out of Division I in basketball.

Western will have \$100,000 cut from its fiscal 1994-95 athletics budget, forcing Richards to cut the facilities and equipment manager's

position and spread those responsibilities among his staff.

How can Western compete financially?

"The direction has to be private giving," Richards said.

There has been talk of raising ticket prices.

"We're trying not to increase them," Richards said. "But when we finalize everything this year, there could be a slight increase."

Because current NCAA restructuring proposals are based on conference averages in areas like scholarships offered, sports sponsored and athletics budgets, Western could enhance its position by joining a conference with schools better-financed than those in the Sun Belt.

The trend for more well-off conferences looking to expand is to seek schools in metropolitan markets that have Division I-A football. Western has neither.

Richards takes heart in recent proposals in connection with

restructuring.

"They want to grant a grandfathering of all Division I basketball teams in the NCAA Tournament," he said about a proposal made at the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics meeting this month. "So it would appear that the Western Kentuckys of the world will come out of this in much better shape than first thought."

Richards said the success of the new Corvette raffle as Western's chief athletics fund-raiser is another good sign.

"We've covered the cost of the car (about \$28,000), so everything else is profit," he said. "As time gets closer to the automobile being given away, I believe we'll have even more ticket sales."

Sources close to Western said Richards was offered the permanent athletics director's job about a month ago but with restrictions. Richards said no one has been offered the job.

He said he would not fret if he

doesn't get the job.

"It's not absolutely vital," he said. "I told everyone I talked with (in his job interview) to do what they thought was best for Western."

## Carr

Carr became ECU's associate director for external affairs and executive director of the Pirate Club in 1988. According to an ECU media guide, the Pirate Club raised \$51.7 million under his direction.

In 1991, Carr began coordinating NCAA compliance for ECU athletics while assisting in scheduling for revenue sports programs.

Carr played baseball at the University of North Carolina and two years in the New York Mets' organization. He became the Tar Heels' assistant football coach in 1971 and coached at Rice University from 1975-78.

He was associate athletics director at UNC from 1978-85 and became athletics director at Mississippi State in 1985. He held the MSU job for two years before returning to North Carolina to pursue private business.